

FLOUTS OF THE MAXIMS IN INTERVIEW BETWEEN BARRACK OBAMA AND ROBIN ROBERTS OF ABC NEWS' "GOOD MORNING AMERICA,"

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Abstract

Cooperative principle plays an important role in communication. It is one of major principles which guide people's communication. It's application in spoken is interested the researcher to analyze the flouting of cooperative principle maxims in Interview between president Barack Obama and Robin Roberts of ABC News' "Good Morning America". This study aimed to find out which maxims are flouted in Barack Obama's interview. In collecting the data, the researcher used documentation. Descriptive qualitative method was employed in processing the transcription data. It was analyzed using the theory of Grice's conversational maxims. Having analyzed the data. The write found the result that there are eighteen flouts of maxims which found in the interview. Based on the finding, it can be concluded that the flouting of maxims also occurred in formal communication such as in president's interview. Moreover, the interviewee disobeyed these maxims for getting particular purposes.

Key words: Cooperative principles; maxims; and flouting; interview

1. INTRODUCTION

In verbal communication people should use language communicatively, and to talk communicatively there should be cooperation in communication between the addressee and the addresser. That is why Cooperativeness of conversations is crucial for maintaining mutual understanding among the participants. In order to be succesful in communication there should be some norms that govern the communication. One of the norms that proposed by Grice is Cooperative Principle. In cooperative principle the speaker should concern on four maxims namely maxims of quantity, quality,

relation and manner. In short, speaker should speak something true, relevant, informative, and clearly. Besides that Cooperative Principle depends on not only on the amount of information, accuracy, way and relevance but also on the aspect of tolerance and cultural background of participants of the conversation.

As zhou (2009) states" Cooperative Principle is not only plays an indispensable role in the generation of conversational implications, but also is a successful example showing how human communication is governed by the principle." Furthermore, in order to make

a conversation go on successfully and smoothly, the speakers on both sides should hold a cooperative attitude (Jia, 2008). Therefore, whether informal or formal situation, the speakers should obey that principles in communication. In fact, the flouting of cooperative principle maxims are occurred in spoken language. In conducting conversation people often flout these maxims. Considering to the phenomenon of flouting maxims in communication, the researcher is eager to analyze whether is there any flouting of cooperative principle maxims in Barack Obama's Interview. The objective of the study is to find out which maxims are flouted in Barack Obama's interview.

Cooperative principle is term of how people use the language. It explains about principles in interaction between one to others. The cooperative principle is a principle of conversation that was stated by Paul Grice. This principle stated that in communication, people should communicative effectively then it is occurred if participants make their conversational contribution such as is required, at the stage at which it occurs by the accepted purpose or direction of a talk exchange in which you are engaged (Grice, 1989:26). As Yule (1996) stated that in communication, participants are required to say the truth, be relevant and try to be as clear as possible.

The function of Cooperative Principle is to arrange our conversation cooperative. Then the content of cooperative principle suggests the speaker should speak not too much, say something true and has evidence, say something relevant and avoid the prolixity and ambiguity. In realizing the cooperative principle in communication Grice proposed that contribution to talk should be guided by from maxims namely maxim of quantity, maxim of quality, maxim of manner and maxim of relevance.

The maxim of quantity

Grice (1975) (in Leech, 1984: 8) defines maxim of quantity “ make your contribution to the conversation as informative as is required, dont make your contribution to the conversation more informative than is required” . It means that the speaker are expected to give informative information. When uttering the utterance the speaker should be neither too little or to much in giving the information.

The examples of flouting maxims of quantity can be seen as follows:

A: Where does Vika live?

B: Somewhere in the Cilegon.

B doesn't give the information exactly where Vika lives. B fails to observe the maxim of quality because B give less information than A require. Thus the maxim of the utterance above is non observance maxim.

The maxim of quality

Grice (1975) stated that “do not say what you believe to be false and do not say that for which you lack adequate evidence!” . Based on the Grice's statement, we assume that the maxim of quality requires the speaker to give the truth and right information. In uttering something the speaker is not allowed to say something a lie or lacks adequate evidence.

The examples of flouting maxims of quantity can be seen as follows:

A: I'm forget where I put my wallet, do you know where is it?

B: maybe someone had stolen your wallet.

The B's answer is lack of evidence. It is just opinion of B, the word “maybe” indicate that B does not know exactly where the wallet is or B is not sure whether the wallet has been stolen or not. Thus the maxim is non observance.

The maxim of relation

In Grice's (1975) outlined that speaker should “be relevant” i.e., say things related to the current topic of the conversation. Furthermore, Norwanto (2006) states “The relevance maxim is exploited by giving information that is not germane with the topic under discussion.” This maxim ensures that the conversation be coherent (Foley, 2001: 276- 77). In other words The maxim of relation requires the speaker to be relevant. So when conducting the conversation, there must be relation between the question and the answer.

The following are example of flouting maxim of relation:

A: our lecturer will come

B: silent please!

From the conversation above, B's comment is inappropriate. B doesn't contribute relevance answer, so the maxim is not observed.

The maxim of manner

Grice break the maxim of manner into four subordinates: 1) avoid obscurity of expression; 2) avoid ambiguity; 3) be brief (avoid unnecessary wordiness); and 4) be orderly. As Foley (2001: 276-77) stated that it should be brief and clear in expressing one's ideas. In short the maxim of manner requires the

speaker to be clear, not ambiguous and orderly when conversing. The speaker is not allowed to say something prolixity and obscurity.

The following are example of flouting maxim of manner:

A: Have you submit your task?

B: I just come a minute ago

Based on the dialogue above, B's answer is obscurity or unclear. B doesn't answer clearly whether his task is had been submitted or not. In this situation B failes to observe maxim of manner, thus the maxim is non observance.

Observance and Non Observance the Maxim

Observance maxims is happened when the speaker obey the four maxims in Cooperative principle. While non observance maxims is occurred when the speaker fail to observe a maxims. According to Grice (1975) there are five ways of failing to observe maxims; Flouting a maxim, violating a maxim, infringing a maxim, opting out of a maxim, and suspending a maxim.

Flouting a Maxim

According to Grice (1975:71) “Flouting a maxim is the situation in which a speaker blatantly fails to observe a maxim, not with any intention of

deceiving or misleading , but because the speaker wishes to prompt the hearer to look for a meaning which is different from, or in addition to the expressed meaning.” This additional meaning is called conversational implicature and the process by which it is generated is called flouting a maxim.

Flouting has some categories which is explained as follows: (1) flouts necessitated by a clash between maxim, it is happened when a speaker flouts the maxim of quantity by blatantly giving either more or less information than the situation demands; (2) flouts which exploit a maxim. It is devided into four: first, flouts exploiting maxim of quality. It is occurred when the speaker says something which is blatantly untrue or lack adequate evidence. Second, flouts exploiting the maxim of quantity. It is occurred when the speaker gives less or more information than is required. Third, flouts exploiting the maxim of relation. It is occurred when the speaker says something irrelevant to the topic. For example flouting the maxim of relation is happened when the speaker fails to answer others person's question. The speaker does not answer the question appropriately or abruptly change the subjecky or the topic of talk. Fourth, flouts exploiting the maxim of manner. It is

occurred when the speaker says something ambiguous so the listener might interpret differently.

Violation of Maxims

Violation, according to Grice (1975),” takes place when speakers intentionally refrain to apply certain maxims in their conversation to cause misunderstanding on their participants’ part or to achieve some other purposes.” In addition, Khosravizadeh and Sadehvandi (2011) stated that a multiple violation occurs when the speaker violates more than one maxim simultaneously. The example of violation maxim as follows:

Sarah: Did you enjoy the party last night?

Anna: There was plenty of oriental food
on the table, lots of flowers all
over the place, people hanging
around chatting with each other.

Sara asked a very simple question, however what she receives from Anna is a protracted description of what was going on in the party. Anna answer is not only ambiguous (violating the maxim of manner) but also verbose (violating the maxim of quantity) at the same time. Two interpretations can be made from Anna’s description: 1. Anna had such a good time in the party that she is obviously too

excited and has no idea where to begin. 2. Anna had such a terrible time and she does not know how to complain about it.

Interview

Steward and Cash (1988:3) defined interview as” a process of dyadic relational communication with a predetermined and serious purposed designed to interchange behaviour and involving the asking and answering questions.” Furthermore Tubb and Moss (1994:243) break down ten objectives of interview i.e. getting information, giving information, persuading, problem solving, counseling, job seeking or hiring, receiving complaints, reviewing performance, correcting or reprimanding, and measuting stress.

In others word, interview is question and answer process in spoken. Interview is a systematic oral technique for obtaining data, directly from an individual. It is a conversation between two or more people, through which information are collected on a particular subject. Interview is an important part in communication. It is also need in conducting survey. Interview as an instrument for collecting the data. Without interview the researcher will loss direct information from the interviewee. interview in television or radio are good

way for getting information and share it to public. In journalistic, interview is way for getting source of news.

2. METHODS

This study used descriptive qualitative method. The utterances which were uttered by President Barack Obama will analyzed to find out which maxims are flouted on Barack Obama's interview. The subject of the study was Barack Obama as an interviewee.

The data in the study is interview between president Barack Obama and Robin Roberts of ABC News' "Good Morning America". The data collection began with collecting the data by searching the recording and transcription of Barack Obama's interview in website. Then the researcher read the transcript for getting depth understanding about this interview. After that the researcher choose the sentences which flouts the cooperative principle maxim. Finally collected data were classified based on the maxims that were flouted. In analyzing the data the writer used theory of Grice's conversational maxims.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The analysis of Barack Obama's utterances show that he flouted the maxims in communication with the

interviewer. The analysis was started by identifying utterances which were flouted by the interviewee and then classifying and calculating the number of flouting maxims which were occurred in utterances by using Grice theory.

The occurrences of flouting the maxims in Barack Obama's interview

The data of the research is transcript of Barack Obama's interviews. The interviewer is Robin Robert, a news presenter of ABC News' "Good Morning America," He interviewed Barack Obama related to the issue of same-sex marriage. The interview was in the Cabinet Room of the White House, May 9, 2012.

Having analyzed the Barack Obama's interview using Grice theory, the researcher found that Barack Obama flouted cooperative principle maxims for eighteen times. The analysis of Obama's utterances indicated that there are 18 flout of maxims in the whole conversation. From 18 flout of maxims which found in the interview there are eight flouting maxim of quantity, two flouting maxim of relation, eight flouting maxim of manner, and no flouting maxim of quality.

The detailed identifications of flouting maxims in the Barack Obama's Interview are explained in the following sections:

The flout of maxim of quantity

Maxim of quantity relates to the amount of contributions to the coherence of conversation. The following are the transcript of interview in which a flout of maxims quantity occurred:

ROBIN ROBERTS: I'm sure it is. One of the hot button issues because of things that have been said by members of your administration, same-sex marriage. In fact, your press secretary yesterday said he would leave it to you to discuss your personal views on that. So Mr. President, are you still opposed to same-sex marriage?

PRESIDENT OBAMA: Well-- you know, I have to tell you, as I've said, I've-- I've been going through an evolution on this issue. I've always been adamant that-- gay and lesbian-- Americans should be treated fairly and equally. And that's why in addition to everything we've done in this administration, rolling back Don't Ask, Don't Tell-- so that-- you know, outstanding Americans can serve our country. Whether it's no longer defending the Defense Against Marriage Act, which-- tried to federalize-- what is historically been state law.

At a certain point, I've just concluded that-- for me personally, it is important for me to go ahead and affirm that-- I think same-sex couples should be able to get

married. Now-- I have to tell you that part of my hesitation on this has also been I didn't want to nationalize the issue. There's a tendency when I weigh in to think suddenly it becomes political and it becomes polarized.

From the dialogue above, the writer found that Obama flouted maxim of quantity, and maxim of manner because his answer is too much and prolixity. Based on his explanation in interview, Actually he supported to legalize same-sex marriage but because this issue still being controversy, he gave prolix response for hiding his exact opinion.

The flout of maxim of quality

In observing the maxim of quality the speaker is expected to say something true and has evidence. In this interview the researcher did not found flouting of maxim quality since the interviewee gave the right information.

The flout of maxim of manner

The speaker flouts the maxim of manner when he/she gives too long or too short utterance or obscure expressions. The following conversation is example how Barack Obama flouts maxim of quality:

ROBIN ROBERTS: So if you were the governor of New York or legislator in

North Carolina, you would not be opposed? You would vote for legalizing same-sex marriage?

PRESIDENT OBAMA: I would. And-- and that's-- that's part of the-- the evolution that I went through. I-- I asked myself-- right after that New York vote took place, if I had been a state senator, which I was for a time-- how would I have voted? And I had to admit to myself, "You know what? I think that-- I would have voted yes." It would have been hard for me, knowing-- all the friends and family-- that-- are gays or lesbians, that for me to say to them, you know, "I voted to oppose you having-- the same kind of rights-- and responsibilities-- that I have."

From the dialogue above, the researcher can measure the flouting of cooperative principle. The interviewee flouted maxim of manner because his statements is prolixity. He did not express his oppinion briefly. Besides that he also flouted maxim of quantity because he gave too much answer.

The flout of maxim of relation

Speakers have to give relevant answer, so if the answer is not relevant it can be called speakers flout maxim of relation. The following are the transcript of interview in which a flout of maxims relation occurred:

ROBIN ROBERTS: You're not gonna leave Mrs. Obama on Air Force One again, on Mother's Day or anything like that?

PRESIDENT OBAMA: Did you see that?

ROBIN ROBERTS: Yeah, I kind of did. It--

PRESIDENT OBAMA: Oh, it was embarrassing.

From the dialogue above, the researcher found that Obama flouted maxim of relation because his information is prolixity and not relevant because the implicature occurred in these dialogues.

4. CONCLUSION

The study investigated the realizations of cooperative principle in real life, that was Barack Obama's interviews. The result of the study show that there was flouting of maxims in this interview. From the 18 flouts of maxims which were made by President Barack Obama, maxim of quantity and manner were frequently employed in the president's response for avoiding the precise expression of his opinions. Then the flouting of maxim relation just happened in twice which the answers were not relevant with the questions. While flouting of maxim quality was not found in this interview due to the fact that the interviewee conveyed true

information. It can be concluded that generally, flouting of maxim can occurred whether intentionally or not but in others case, the interviewee disobeyed these maxims for getting particular purposes. Moreover, flouting of maxim might be occurred in any conversation whether it is informal or formal situation such as in president's interview.

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